

10/662,975

AFTER-FINAL
AMENDMENT
FILED 1/24/05

- 2 -

Amendments to the Claims

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Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23. Please amend Claims 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28-31. Please add new Claims 32-35. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said ester is A method for treating a cytokine-mediated inflammatory condition in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising:
administering to said patient an effective amount of a composition comprising an ester of an alpha-ketoalkanoic acid selected from the group consisting of alpha-ketopropionic acid (pyruvate), alpha-keto-butyrate, alpha-ketopentanoate, alpha-keto-3-methyl-butyrate, alpha-keto-4-methyl-pentanoate or alpha-keto-hexanoate in a pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier substance,
wherein the condition is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis, endotoxic shock, cerebral malaria, silicosis, pulmonary sarcoidosis, bone resorption disease, graft versus host disease, allograft rejections, fever and myalgia due to infection, AIDS related complex (ARC), Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, cachexia and septic shock .
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 3, wherein said ester is an ester of pyruvic acid.
5. (Cancelled)